



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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PSC Strategic Energy Assessment Focuses Energy Efforts

MADISON – The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) issued the final Strategic Energy Assessment today, with a list of key recommendations in the areas of generation and transmission integration, protecting affordable rates and strengthening our energy efficiency and renewable programs.

“The report will serve as a springboard for Commission activities over the next few years,” according to PSC Chairperson Burnie Bridge. “Energy 2010, Wisconsin’s Strategic Energy Assessment, has clearly identified the energy challenges facing Wisconsin and helped focus our immediate attention on three key areas.”

“Today the Commission adopted an action plan that will focus on cost containment and lead to better coordination between electric generation, transmission, energy efficiency and renewable energy plans,” Bridge added.

The Commission agreed to take specific actions in the following three energy policy areas:

- Improve coordination of transmission and generation investment
 - Formal review, including public comment, of the American Transmission Company’s ten-year transmission plan.
 - Open an investigation to determine the optimal ability of the state to transfer energy within Wisconsin and with our neighbors.
- Maintain reasonable rates for Wisconsin customers
 - Recommend that the Governor and Legislature consider legislation creating a new rate-based financing tool for construction of power plants that will provide certainty to investors while lowering the impact on ratepayers.
 - Improve rate impact evaluation in rate cases by looking at cost of service to different customer groups.
- Lead the way in energy efficiency and renewable resources
 - Support the overall objective of the Governor’s Energy Efficiency and Renewables Task Force to ensure Wisconsin is a leader in the area of energy efficiency and renewable energy.
 - Explore more effective methods of implementing Wisconsin’s Energy Priority Act.

“Our report provides a good snapshot of the tremendous amount of new transmission and generation investment that is happening in Wisconsin,” Commissioner Bert Garvin said. “It also highlights the tremendous challenge we face today in ensuring affordable prices and reliable electricity for Wisconsin customers and businesses during a period of rising energy costs and significant market uncertainty.”

"A year ago, Governor Doyle called upon the Commission to review its planning process," said Commissioner Mark Meyer. "The Commission responded by developing an extensive stakeholder process and actively seeking comments from the public. The results of this process yielded the comprehensive report issued by the Commission today."

Noting the participation at the public forums, Bridge said, “The Commission appreciates all the public input and involvement which was invaluable in the process of setting these goals for Wisconsin’s energy future.”

The final draft of the Strategic Energy Assessment will be available online at <http://psc.wi.gov>, click on SEA2010.

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